

WORLD NEWS

THE TRAIL OF CARLOS THE JACKAL

Illich Ramirez Sanchez, the Venezuelan-born terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal, had a reputation of almost legendary proportions. Terrorist operations attributed to Carlos before his arrest last August in Khartoum, Sudan, include:

1973

■ Wounding of British millionaire Edward Sieff, a Jew whose family owns Marks and Spencer stores in London.

1974

■ Takeover of the French Embassy in The Hague.

1975

■ Killing of two French intelligence agents who were investigating attacks on planes belonging to Israel's El Al airlines at Paris's Orly Airport.

■ Attack on OPEC headquarters in Vienna in which three people were killed and 11 were taken hostage. The cartel's oil ministers were taken to North Africa in a hijacked plane in a \$1 billion hostage drama.

1976

■ Hijacking of an Air France jetliner to Entebbe, Uganda.

1982

■ Bombing of the Paris-Toulouse express train, killing six people and wounding 15 others.

■ Bombing near the Champs Elysees in Paris in which a pregnant woman was killed and 63 people were injured.

1983

■ Bombings in Marseille's main railroad terminal and on the Paris-Marseille express train, killing five people and wounding 50.

■ Bombing of the French cultural center in West Berlin, killing one person and injuring 23.

SOURCE: Associated Press



The Terrorist Who Became Expendable

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Foreign Service

THARTOUM, Sudan
The end for Carlos the Jackal's career came here in a backwater capital where he was known for heavytipping and hard drinking.

According to Sudanese and foreign sources, the notorious terrorist who had eluded capture for more than two decades before being apprehended last August by Sudanese security police was seized at a private Khartoum clinic while under general anesthesia for a common operation to improve circulation in the testes—either to alleviate pain or to increase fertility.

He was handed over to French agents by a militantly Islamic Sudanese government that said it had no use for a Marxist on a phony passport, then was put on a French government executive jet and flown to Paris to face a string of murder charges dating from the 1970s and 1980s. He is awaiting trial.

By the time he was captured, Illich Ramirez Sanchez, the Venezuelan-born terrorist's given name, was 44 and balding and at the end of his tether. He had become a victim of the Cold War's demise and the fickleness of the Sudanese government, which proudly offers safe haven to beleaguered Muslims regarded as renegades elsewhere, but not to what it considers



Terrorists board plane after seizing hostages at OPEC headquarters in Vienna in 1975. REUTERS

expendable soldiers from a war of another time and another place.

Hassan Turabi, Sudan's spiritual guide who is thought to wield considerable influence in government thinking, said that if Carlos had arrived as a "refugee," Sudan would have provided him safe haven. "Unfortunately for him," Turabi said in an interview, "Carlos came on a false passport with a lady supposed to be his wife," but who turned out not to be.

The woman was said to be a Jordanian of Palestinian ancestry and was treated as Carlos's wife while he was in Khartoum. She accompanied him on his public jaunts, but rarely spoke, and

apparently returned to Jordan after he was seized.

Turabi said upon learning of Carlos's presence from the French, "I had him told to leave as soon as possible." But when Turabi discovered some time later that his increasingly unwelcome guest was still in Khartoum, "I said, 'Since he refused to understand, give him to the French.' It was not a difficult decision."

It was made easier, Turabi said, upon learning that Carlos "had come from an Arab country which was in close contact with the American government"—an apparent reference to Jordan. Carlos is said to have traveled to Sudan on a

Jordanian passport after living for years in Syria, Iraq and Libya, as well as Eastern Europe.

"The American government knew all about his presence here before the French," Turabi said.

This seemed to reinforce reports that the United States tracked Carlos throughout his year-long sojourn in Khartoum and, since no American citizens were harmed in Carlos's operations, tipped off France, where he was wanted in the deaths of two counterintelligence agents investigating him in 1975 and of a dozen other French citizens.

After some early lesser escapades, Carlos came to world attention in 1975 when he masterminded an attack on a meeting of oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries at OPEC headquarters in Vienna. Three people were killed and 11 hostages, including oil ministers, were taken to North Africa before being released.

The next year he reportedly was involved in the hijacking of an Air France jetliner to Uganda. In 1982 he was accused in the bombing of a train in France in which six people were killed, and he was blamed in the 1983 bombings of Marseille's main train station, in which five people died, and of the French

See CARLOS, A25, Col. 1

cultural center in West Berlin, where one person was killed.

France sent two counterintelligence investigators to Sudan, photographed Carlos and confronted Sudanese authorities with the evidence.

Turabi put the best possible face on surrendering Carlos, seeking to deflect charges that the Sudanese government harbors Islamic terrorists from Egypt, Lebanon and other Middle East countries and offers them training grounds and logistical support. He said Sudan is not the pariah regime the United States and Western Europe describe, but a responsible and unfairly quarantined "state of law."

"The Americans wanted to use Carlos as the final, conclusive proof that the Sudan was the home for all terrorists," Turabi said. "Unfortunately for the Americans, the mine exploded in favor of the Sudan" by illustrating Khartoum's willingness to cooperate. "That's why the State Department never mentioned the Sudan's role when Carlos was arrested."

In retrospect, what struck those who saw a great deal socially of self-described businessman Abdullah Barakat—as Carlos called himself during his year in Sudan—was that no one he met socially guessed his true identity.

Khartoum's isolation helped. Yet clues abounded in a city where civilians traditionally do not carry firearms, Carlos always had a gun in his belt. He was never without his Lebanese bodyguards and wore a bullet-proof vest in public despite the often more than 100-degree heat.

He passed himself off as a Latin American of Lebanese extraction, acquaintances recalled, despite a Palestinian accent in Arabic. A regular at

the Armenian, Greek and Syrian clubs, Carlos drew attention to himself, tipping waiters generously and pouring whiskey in a country officially dry since 1983 and kept that way by public floggings for those caught drinking alcohol.

"He liked his liquor, liked women, liked his Dutch cigars and made friends easily," said a man who knew him well.

When he had been drinking, Carlos was given to boasting about his official protection, and on at least one such occasion proved his bonafides. One day after drinking he pulled a gun and threatened the son of a female Sudanese friend who screamed until police from the nearby Yemeni Embassy arrived and arrested Carlos. Within an hour, re-

counted a foreigner who closely followed the incident, a senior Sudanese official arrived and ordered Carlos freed after reducing the charges to the equivalent of causing a public disturbance.

"White Sudanese"—foreigners who have become Sudanese citizens—who invited him to their clubs chided Abdullah Barakat for never inviting them to his home in the so-called New Extension near Khartoum airport. "Sure, it was odd," said one "white Sudanese," but "in the Sudan many things are odd."

"At the end I'm convinced he was glad it was over," a friend mused. "For me he wanted to be done with it. He knew he couldn't flee."

"The Cold War was over. The East German and Hungarian secret police

files were made public and blew his cover there," the friend said. "With the French pressing, the Sudanese wanted to get rid of him, but either the countries they proposed for him refused to take him or he refused the ones who would have him."

Despite persistent rumors that France paid off Sudan with money and satellite pictures of civil war rebel positions in the south, there is no hard evidence of French military aid, according to intelligence specialists.

Carlos's fate has left an enduring bitter taste among some of those he befriended here.

"He did a lot for the Arab cause and we used him and sold him cheap. That is not good for the Arabs," one man said. "When it was all over I realized he wanted to shout, 'I'm Carlos!'"